

cause the Legislature cannot compensate under such circumstances.

[The hour for taking the vote having arrived, the hammer fell.]

Mr. DANIEL moved to reconsider the order that the debate should be closed at 2 o'clock.

Mr. STIRLING. If the Convention will allow me to proceed for ten minutes by unanimous consent, I should prefer it to reconsidering the order.

Mr. DANIEL withdrew his motion.

There being no objection,

Mr. STIRLING proceeded: I believe that the inauguration of this policy will go very far to establish the result which I before announced as the first proposition in my argument. Just so far as the Southern people become satisfied that the South is not a unit, just so far they will grow weak in their resistance. I believe conscientiously that if the people of the South had been convinced that the border States would not have followed them into this war, they would not have made it. The idea of a confederacy based upon the States bordering upon the Gulf of Mexico is an impossibility. They believed that all the slaveholding States would go with them. If the border States had stood firm, with their arms in their hands, and told these people they would not join them, but would aid in protecting the Union, it would have had the effect to stay the rebellion; for the South could not be foolish enough to conceive the idea of a confederacy of the cotton States. Emancipation in Missouri and Tennessee is carrying the lines of the Government down into the very heart of the rebellion. It brings about a condition in which the continuance of the rebellion becomes an impossibility.

Look at the influence of voluntary emancipation upon the question of secession. Do not gentlemen know that in the mountainous region of the country, from Pennsylvania to Georgia, along the whole backbone of the Alleghenies, you have a loyal population? Why is this? You find a loyal population along that territory, because they are not slaveholding. And that population alone, along the mountain region, extending down into Tennessee, has been that by which this Government has saved itself. I conceive that if the people of the South had been united; if every man in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Maryland, had been identified in feeling, in sympathy, with South Carolina, they could not have been conquered. I believe they can be conquered simply because I believe those States, by these cotemporaneous acts, are asserting a purpose which the Southern States cannot gainsay, and from which they cannot be drawn. It is simply saying to these people, we are convinced that the institution of slavery has produced great evils, and must lead us into the same if we allow it to continue. As the great apostle of reform in England, Cranmer, treated his own hand, when

he held over the burning altar the hand with which he had signed his recantation of Protestantism, and burned it before the rest of his body, we intend to hold over the consuming flame this institution, saying: "By this we have offended; let this die first."

I believe that such an act would not only appal the breasts of traitors in the South, but afford the only hope of reorganizing the Union party of the South. But not only is the loyalty of the South principally confined to the region where slavery does not exist, but there has not been a man who has been converted from rebellion to loyalty, but has come back by the road of the abolition of slavery. There is not a man who was in the rebel army, and who has joined the Union army, who has not come back through the road of abolition. There is not a single road by which the Southern people can ever travel back into sympathy with this Government, except by the change of those circumstances which brought about the rebellion.

This is therefore no obsequious sacrifice to despots in Washington. It is the free choice of the people of this State. It is because they believe with Mr. Lincoln that this is the cause of the rebellion. It is because this flag is their flag, this Government their Government, that they do this act to save the Government from danger, and to transmit it unimpaired to their posterity.

Mr. MARBURY rose to a personal explanation in reply to Mr. Berry, of Baltimore county, in relation to the votes given by himself and his colleagues upon the resolution of thanks to the Maryland soldiers, but before concluding, was called to order by

The PRESIDENT, who did not consider the explanation such as to be a privileged question.

Mr. MARBURY thereupon reserved the privilege of replying until some future opportunity.

Mr. CLARKE desired to offer an amendment to the amendment.

The PRESIDENT ruled it out of order, unless by general consent, or the reconsideration of the order requiring the vote to be taken at this time.

The question was stated upon the amendment submitted by Mr. BROWN.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, moved a reconsideration of the order by which the Convention determined to take the vote at two o'clock.

The motion was seconded by Messrs. MARBURY and HARWOOD.

The motion to reconsider was rejected.

The question recurred upon Mr. BROWN's amendment, which was read as follows:

"Add to the 23d Article the following: 'and the Legislature shall make provision from the Treasury of the State for the comfortable support and maintenance of the helpless and paupers hereby emancipated.'"

Mr. BROWN demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.